

Today's News - Wednesday, March 2, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of Luigi Rosselli Architects' rammed-earth complex in the Australian outback to provide "short-term accommodation during the cattle-mustering season" (very cool!).
- Kennedy gives thumbs-up to Beyer Blinder Belle's less-is-more approach to its restoration/renovation of the Met Breuer (great pix).
- The New Museum's Wong delves into the Venice Biennale and the Pritzker Prize betting big on Aravena, "who just may have the right combination of idealism and pragmatism to drag us out of the 20th century and into a just new world."
- Wachs wades deep into Memphis, Tennessee's "urban resurgence" and projects that "are bright spots on city terrain marked by persistent disinvestment. They should be praised for their intent and watched closely for their outcomes."
- A great Q&A with Rwandan architect Benimana of MASS Design Group re: "what Africa's emerging cities can learn from China" (mostly what not to do), and how "more African architects and designers can have a hand in the design and construction of the continent's new cities."
- A look at "a new wave of talent" in Ghanaian (and African) architecture, with "newly-minted architects out to prove that they can be both practical and creative."
- Zeiger offers a fascinating take on gender in architecture: "in honoring the ladies of design, do we risk divorcing them from the overall discipline, thus marginalizing their accomplishments? If the goal is to recognize talent, experimentation and innovation, there seems no reason to create a binary in the field."
- Results of AR's 2016 Women in Architecture Survey "provide disturbing insights - alarmingly, more than one in five would not recommend a career in architecture."
- A great profile of Louise Blanchard Bethune, "Buffalo's gift to architecture and women's rights," who championed "equal remuneration for equal service." It is a goal that even today has not yet been fully realized."
- Ennead is tapped to renovate and expand the lobby of Lincoln Center's Metropolitan Opera House.
- OMA's de Graaf says "the 21st-century trend in city building has led to a mad and meaningless overdose of themes, extremes, egos and extravagance. What is needed is a new beginning."
- MVRDV's Knikker and Davidson take issue with Minkjan using one of their projects to argue that the renderings of "lush greenery might in reality not turn out like the render - we go to great lengths before these promises are made and to make these promises happen" (a great read).
- Campbell-Dollaghan takes a look back at Walter Bird and his "Cold War technology that created a new architecture" for the likes of Jahn, Bunshaft, and Rogers.
- Cheers to the 12 architects receiving the 2016 AIA Young Architects Award!
- Mossop takes the helm as new Dean of Design, Architecture and Building at the University of Technology Sydney.
- Richardson steps down as director of the British Council; Mann steps into the job.
- Call for entries: Architect magazine's 2016 R+D Awards + Contract magazine's 2016 Inspirations Awards + BIA 2016 Brick in Architecture Awards + Mies van der Rohe Foundation Young Talent Architecture Award.

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Luigi Rosselli Architects: The Great Wall of W.A., Western Australia: these truly unique residences embody the landscape and vernacular of the Australian outback...earth-covered residences, providing short-term accommodation during the cattle-mustering season...A complex of built forms in dialogue with the landscape. [\[images\]](#)

A Look at the Met Breuer Before the Doors Open: To step forward, architects restoring the new Met Breuer, formerly the Whitney Museum, took several steps back toward Marcel Breuer's intentions: "He loved the hard dignity of aging materials...One of the most important parts of restoration is in deciding what not to do. And we didn't do a lot." By Randy Kennedy -- Beyer Blinder Belle [\[images\]](#)- New York Times

Why the Design World is Betting Big on Alejandro Aravena: Be it collusion or good luck, this year's Venice Architecture Biennale and the Pritzker Prize are reflecting in each other's seemingly quixotic decision: to bet big on an architect who just may have the right combination of idealism and pragmatism to drag us out of the 20th century and into a just new world. By Karen Wong/New Museum -- Elemental- artnet News

The Memphis Movement: Will Memphis's recent urban resurgence be felt citywide? These projects are bright spots on city terrain marked by persistent disinvestment. They should be praised for their intent and watched closely for their outcomes. By Audrey Wachs -- archimania; Todd Richardson; Looney Ricks Kiss; Dialog; O T Marshall Architects; James Corner Field Operations; Marlon Blackwell Architects [\[images\]](#)- The Architect's Newspaper

What Africa's emerging cities can learn from China: ...cities are being built, in large part, by China...more African architects and designers can have a hand in the design and construction of the continent's new cities...Christian Benimana, a Rwandan architect with MASS Design Group, is leading this effort..."a well thought out solution that you can just duplicate in thousands and millions of copies. That's something China does really well, but I think it's a bad idea." By Lily Kuo [\[images\]](#)- Quartz Africa

The rising star in the world of architecture: With a new wave of talent emerging, so too is distinctly Ghanaian architecture...newly-minted architects out to prove that they can be both practical and creative. Ghana's two architectural colleges are keen to impress upon its students the country's rich building heritage. -- Akosua Obeng/Orthner, Orthner & Associates; Frances Buckle-Thompson; David Adjaye; Sharon Davis; Stan Field; Diébédo Francis Kéré/Kéré Architecture [\[images\]](#)- CNN World

'Despite the pulls of gender, there is still the work - the ideas, designs and buildings that transcend any single notion of identity': ...in honouring the ladies of design, do we risk divorcing them from the overall discipline, thus marginalising their accomplishments...Gender differentiation...comes with a thorny rhetorical question: What's the difference? If the goal is to recognise talent, experimentation and innovation, there seems no reason to create a binary in the field. By Mimi Zeiger -- Susan Surface/Design in Public; Toshiko Mori; Tamar Shafir/Space Caviar; Jing Liu/SO-IL; Dang Qun/MAD Architects- Architectural Review (UK)

Results of the 2016 Women in Architecture Survey revealed: ...provides disturbing insights into the experiences of 1,152 women worldwide - alarmingly, more than one in five would not recommend a career in architecture...72% say they have experienced sexual discrimination, harassment or victimisation during their career in architecture.- Architectural Review (UK)

Louise Blanchard Bethune, Buffalo's gift to architecture and women's rights: ...America's first female professional architect...Her career rise was meteoric...[She] not only walked the walk; she also talked the talk..."the respect of the public is 'equal remuneration for equal service,' and a strict observance of all the honorable traditions of our profession..." It is a goal that even today has not yet been fully realized. -- Bethune & Bethune- WBFO / NPR Buffalo

The Metropolitan Opera House, Home to Massive Marc Chagall Murals, To Renovate Lobby: ...will get a new look courtesy of Ennead Architects...The project will involve the renovation and expansion of the lobby. -- Wallace K. Harrison (1966)- artnet News

Rejections aren't dead losses for OMA architects: Reinier de Graaf talks about building designs and functions for the 21st century: ..."the 21st-century trend in city building has led to a mad and meaningless overdose of themes, extremes, egos and extravagance...What is needed is a new beginning"...only 10% of the designs drawn by the office are ever built, but designs of unrealized projects often become inspirations for other projects. -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture; Rem Koolhaas- Korea Herald

In Defense of Renders and Trees On Top of Skyscrapers: ...[on] Failed Architecture...Mark Minkjan comments on the phenomenon of architectural renders, arguing that "digital visualizations and hollow sales pitches hide the ugly sides of architecture"...[he] takes MVRDV's proposal for Ravel Plaza in Amsterdam as a "case study"...arguing that its lush greenery might in reality not turn out like the render, is in stark contrast to the level of...guarantees given...to the municipality...we go to great lengths before these promises are made and...to make these promises happen. By Jan Knikker and Alex Davidson/MVRDV [images]- ArchDaily

The Cold War Technology That Created A New Architecture: Helmut Jahn, Gordon Bunshaft, and Richard Rogers all tapped the same company to help build their tensile structures: In 1956, Walter Bird struck out on his own to build a company, Birdair, that would bring air-supported and tensile structures to the world of architecture. It didn't take long for the design world to see the potential... By Kelsey Campbell-Dollaghan -- Fazlur Rahman Khan [images]- Fast Company / Co.Design

12 architects selected for 2016 AIA Young Architects Award -- Seth E. Anderson/Ascent Architecture & Interiors; Mindy Aust/Substance Architecture; Erin Carragher/University of Utah School of Architecture; Bob Ganser/MSR Design; Amy L. Kalar/Karen Lu/HGA Architects; Yu-Ngok Lo/NOMA Magazine; Shelby Morris/Beck; Carey Nagle/BNIM; Daniel J. Scheaffer/LS3P; Carissa Shrock/Moore Ruble Yudell; Stephanie Silkwood/RMV architecture & interiors [images]- Building Design + Construction (BD+C)

Elizabeth Mossop named new Dean of Design, Architecture and Building at UTS/University of Technology Sydney: She was most recently Professor of Landscape Architecture and Director of the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture at Louisiana State University... -- Spackman Mossop & Michaels landscape architects- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Vicky Richardson quits British Council: Director of architecture steps down after six years: She will be replaced by Sarah Mann who previously ran contemporary programming for the National Trust in London...- BD/Building Design (UK)

Call for entries: 2016 R+D Awards (international): to celebrate the groundbreaking research, materials, and technologies that are advancing the building industry at every scale; new: reduced registration fee for full-time students and faculty members; earlybird deadline (save money!): April 15 (regular deadline: April 20)- Architect Magazine

Call for entries: 2016 Inspirations Awards recognizing socially responsibility in commercial interiors; cash prizes; deadline: April 18- Contract magazine / Tandus Centiva

Call for entries: 2016 Brick in Architecture Awards; open to architectural, design-build, or landscaping design firms licensed in the U.S., Canada, or a U.S. territory; deadline: April 30- Brick Industry Association

Call for entries: Young Talent Architecture Award: to support the talent of recently graduated Architects, Urban Planners and Landscape Architects; schools must be from Europe; cash prizes; school registration deadline: July 15 (submissions due August)- Mies van der Rohe Foundation / Fundació Mies van der Rohe

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